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GAME IS HELD UP

Examination Frauds in Duval Fully Established

STATESUPTS PROMPT ACTION

Results in Laying the Whole Rotten Thing Bare to the Public.

Hon. W. N. Sheats, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Florida, is receiving the congratulations of his many friends throughout the State this week upon his successful ruse in establishing beyond a reasonable doubt the existence of fraud in the examination of colored teachers in Duval county in June.

For years there has been to the practiced eye of the Superintendent, in connection with the knowledge of affairs down there, evidence of fraud in conducting these examinations, but when it came to securing evidence of the fact, which under any known rules of procedure, would convict any one of complicity in or even knowledge of the frauds, it became "a horse of another color."

This time it leaked out, however, as murder will, and before very many people knew anything was suspected, the evidence was in the hands of the State Superintendent, who very carefully guarded it, without breaking a seal or looking at a paper, until the whole thing in all its rottenness was unfolded in the presence of the State Superintendent of Duval and a committee of investigation selected partly by the County Superintendent and partly by the State Superintendent.

It was so glaring that there could be no disputing the fact, and after only a short resistance the County Superintendent agreed to having the examination for colored teachers declared illegal and void, and all applicants for certificates at said examination directed to appear at the September examination—that is, if they still want to teach.

The story of how it was all done, briefly told, and without going into details is as follows:

Tom. F. McBeath, well known to educators in this section of the State, having formerly lived here, was chairman of the grading committee. Going over the papers filed with the committee as those of the colored examinees he found so much similarity in the verbiage of the answers in certain branches and so many exact copies of the book answers in others that he and the other members of the committee were convinced that an organized plan of fraudulently answering the questions had been successfully worked all through the examinations.

The grading committee, through Mr. McBeath, communicated these facts to Mr. Sheats, who, suspecting that a demand would be made upon the committee for the papers, at the first indication of an investigation, directed that they be sent to him here.

Sure enough, a demand was made, but the papers being beyond the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent, he could do nothing.

The latter part of last week State Superintendent Sheats went to Jacksonville and summoned the grading committee before him. The papers were then opened and the irregularities and impossible similarities pointed out to him.

The Duval County Superintendent was then called in, a committee of investigation selected by him and Mr. Sheats and the merits of the case taken up.

When fifteen papers presented by as many examinees were shown to be exact copies of each other as regards spelling, punctuation, capitalization and paragraphing, the State Superintendent proposed that the County Superintendent should bring in two or three of the fifteen examinees who had answered exactly alike, and they could re-write in the presence of the investigating committee even the subject matter of the answers, he would stop the examination and allow the certificates to be given, if the County Superintendent would accept the proposition of fraud if they failed.

The County Superintendent had all along contended that the similarity of the answers was a mere coincidence, due solely to the wonderful memory of the negro race, and their ability to repeat verbatim book answers. This, therefore, was a proposition he could not very well refuse to accept.

A messenger was sent out for the examinees, but could find only one of them—a negro woman. She responded, was given pen, paper and ink, and took two and a quarter hours to answer less than one-half the questions on one subject.

When she handed in her paper, all those present having agreed to rest the case on her, in the absence of being able to secure more of them, only one thing could be done. Her paper bore no similarity in language, sentiment or construction to the one she had filed at the examination. The County Superintendent then admitted the existence of fraud, and under the law vesting in the State Superintendent power to declare such examinations illegal and void, he took the action stated in the beginning of this article.

A NEWSY CHAIRES LETTER.

Chaires, July 2.—Mr. C. T. Hancock, a former resident of Chaires, has moved to Tallahassee. Mr. Hancock is

an enterprising public-spirited man, and Chaires regrets to lose him. Mr. George Patterson and family now occupy and run the Hancock House. Mr. Patterson has also opened up a general stock of merchandise in the store.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Fisher, of Tampa, with their three interesting children, are visiting at the pretty home of Mr. Robert Fisher, two miles from the village.

An ice cream entertainment was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orman Chaires last Friday evening, complimentary to the young people. A very pleasant evening was spent by one and all.

Mrs. David Chaires will leave Tuesday in company with her sister, Mrs. Ben Chaires, for Panama, where they will drink the health-giving waters of this popular resort for two weeks.

Mrs. W. T. Snipes is spending this week with Centreville friends. Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Woodberry attended the closing exercises of Waukeena High School last Friday.

Mrs. S. A. Cox, is having extensive improvements made on her house, after which she will have a store erected. Mr. E. C. Smith and daughter, Miss Lilla, spent Saturday and Sunday in Micosuki.

A tidal wave of matrimony seems sweeping over the entire country, even engulfing those apparently enjoying "single blessedness." I wonder who will be the next ones at Chaires to launch out upon the matrimonial sea(?)

OBSERVER.

LIEUT. PHILBRICK SICK.

Lieutenant E. E. Philbrick, who, together with Major C. A. Dunham, was in charge of the relief Emergency Hospital, on Adams street, was taken sick yesterday, and was obliged to take to his bed. The duties imposed on the physicians at the relief hospital were arduous, and Dr. Philbrick's illness is not thought to be serious, and it is hoped that his recovery will be rapid. Dr. Philbrick is quartered in the tent he formerly occupied, together with Major Dunham, who is giving him attention. All the patients have been removed from the other tents, and the canvas will come down. The last patient was removed Saturday afternoon. He was Frank Jackson, the negro whose spine was dislocated. A most successful operation was performed on Jackson by Drs. Dunham and Philbrick and the man is now expected to get well. The tenth and eleventh vertebrae of the spine had been knocked out of place, but by a process of corseting with plaster the injury was almost completely remedied. Jackson was taken to his home.

A NEW CIGAR FACTORY.

We learn that a Mr. Wallace has decided to open up a new cigar factory in the city at an early date. Mr. Wallace is of Spanish extraction, and being from Cuba is thoroughly familiar with the business of manufacturing tobacco. To Mr. M. F. Papy is largely due the credit of his deciding to locate in this city. Mr. Papy assisted him to find desirable quarters to begin his work at once. We understand that he has rented the new "house" recently erected by the City Council near the city market, and will temporarily occupy that building.

A REWARD FOR MURDERER.

The last issue of the Gulf Coast Breeze contains a letter from Governor Jennings to Hon. Nat. R. Walker, of Crawfordville, stating that he will pay a reward for the apprehension of the murderer of T. S. White. The citizens of Medart, the home of the murdered man, will also pay a reward for the capture of the negro suspected, without waiting for a conviction.

FACULTY SELECTED.

The Leon County School Board has selected the following faculty for Leon Academy: Professor H. W. Demilly, president; Professor J. W. Montgomery, Misses C. M. Brevard, M. B. Eppes, M. W. Cotton, Hennie Chaires, assistants. Also the following faculty for Lincoln Academy: Professor J. G. Riley, principal; Professor S. J. Johnson, Mrs. M. C. Forbes, Edward Ryan and Miss Irene Baker.

The question of acquiring a plot of ground for a new cemetery will be taken up at the next meeting of the City Council. Various plans and lots are being offered. Among those offered is Llewellyn Park in the northwestern suburb of the city, comprising some 35 acres, heavily wooded. Another lot offered is the square immediately west of the present city cemetery. The Council will be glad to have suggestions from any of the citizens on the subject.

Mr. Robert Bryan McCord left here the latter part of last week for Decatur county, Georgia, where he goes to take charge of the Calvary High School. He is principal of that school and has one associate. We congratulate the people of that vicinity for securing such a talented young man, and we also congratulate Mr. McCord on getting a school in such a fine neighborhood. We wish him much success.

A large party of Tallahasseeans leave on Thursday for Lanark for a two weeks' outing. Among the party will be Mr. W. A. Papy and family, Mr. W. A. Demilly and family, Mr. J. D. Cay and family, Mrs. Fannie Hogan and Miss Mary Coles.

"The Seminary West of the Suwannee has been rechristened 'The State College'—a much more convenient, it is not more appropriate name, by the way."—Florida School Journal.

KING'S DAUGHTERS.

The monthly meeting of the King's daughters will be held at the residence of Dr. Palmer, Friday afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

WILL SELL FOR LESS

Meaning Four Vols. Reprinted Supreme Court Reports

LIBRARIAN WILL SELL THEM

At Prices Fixed by Legislature which Ordered Them Printed.

A friend of the editor of this paper, residing in Jacksonville, has sent us a circular, printed, we presume, for distribution generally throughout the State. The circular reads as follows: "Dear Sir: I am reprinting Vols. 1 and 3 of the Florida Reports, and enclose contract for you to sign, if you want to subscribe."

"These books have been out of print for many years, and to those who will subscribe in advance, I will sell the two books at \$10.00 each. It is probable the price will be more after the book is out, as the demand is very limited. I would like to receive your subscription by return mail."

"I am prepared to make special terms where a full set of reports are wanted."

"I also enclose contracts for the acts of the present session of the Legislature, and for Vol. 42 of the Reports. Your order should be sent in at once, and will receive prompt attention."

"Old law books rebound as good as new at reasonable prices. I can supply all or any of the Florida Reports at once, except 1 and 3."

Three separate contracts are attached to this letter, viz.: For the acts of the Legislature of 1901 at \$2.00; for Volumes 1 and 3 of the Florida Reports at \$10.00 each, and for Volume 42, Florida Reports, at \$3.00.

Under the contract for Volumes 1 and 3 is the following statement: "All other volumes of Reports can be supplied from stock." And under the bottom of contract for Volume 42 is the astounding statement: "Reports of all previous years supplied at regular prices."

Aside from the conflict of statements in offering 1 and 3 at \$10.00 each and "Reports of all previous years" to 42, which covers the decisions rendered during the year 1900, not yet printed, this circular is somewhat misleading in other respects.

The laws of 1901 are being printed by the Tallahasseean, and no one else. Every copy printed for distribution or sale will be turned over to the Secretary of State, who will sell them for fifty cents a copy, unbound. The price for binding, law sheep, is \$1.00.

Volumes 1 and 3 of the Florida Reports have just been authorized by the Legislature to be reprinted by the Board of State Institutions, and inquiry at the office of the Librarian of the Supreme Court develops the fact that no contract has been let. They will, however, soon be printed and sold by him at \$3.50 each, bound in law sheep—a modest little difference of \$5.50 in favor of the purchaser.

Volumes 7 and 10 are likewise out of print and are to be reprinted in the same manner and will be sold for the same price.

These facts are given for the protection of the legal lights in Florida, who read the Tallahasseean to get the Supreme Court Head Notes regularly, and who might otherwise be induced to give up ten dollars for books that will soon be on sale by the Supreme Court Librarian for much less money.

SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT.

The question of running a sewer from the Presbyterian Church down Adams street will be taken up at the next meeting of the City Council. The government sewer running down that street has recently become clogged, and the Government inspector sent here to look into the matter placed the blame as coming from the city market sewer and the private sewers that empty into it along its route. He insisted that the city authorities should clean out the sewer, which they did by means of a copious flushing from the city hydrants. While they yielded to the inspector's demands, the city authorities are sure the cause of the trouble came from the defective construction of the various manholes along the route of the sewer, which allow sand and dirt to fall into it. This appears the more reasonable cause for the obstruction. To prevent future trouble with the Government, the city authorities are therefore considering the putting in of their own sewer, with which all property owners along the route will be compelled to empty their sewerage.

WILLIAMS CHOSEN.

The Board of Managers for the State College a few days ago elected Prof. Arthur Williams, of Summerlin Institute, to the chair of English Literature and Rhetoric. He has accepted. Concerning Prof. Williams' ability, a correspondent of the Times-Union and Citizen, writing from Arcadia, where he is now teaching a summer training school for teachers, says: "The State Teachers' Training School is increasing daily in attendance and interest. It draws its patronage from DeSoto and adjoining counties. The State Department made no mistake in sending Prof. Arthur Williams, principal Summerlin Institute, as principal of the training school."

Mr. F. A. Hathaway, who has been assisting at the recent Normal School held here, left on Sunday for Monticello, where he will assist in the Summer School.

THE STATE FAIR

Things Needed to be Done to Make it a Success

AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE

To Prepare Exhibits of Every Kind and Send Them to the Fair.

The Florida State Fair, organized by gentlemen deeply interested in all material interests of the State, believe that an object lesson such as a State Fair will furnish will be of such value to all of her people that they may depend upon the people themselves for such hearty support that already a complete success is assured.

Our State Fair will show not only to our people, but to outsiders, home-seekers and investors, the magnitude of our resources. We have never shown either to our own people or to outsiders the extent of our raw material, or the possibilities of our climate and soil for immense stock productions.

By our State Fair we will show everybody how much is being done, and learn ourselves what more we ought to do, to place ourselves in the front rank of the great commonwealths of the country. There is nothing we so much need as the advancement of our agricultural conditions. Our people should learn how to make them profitable.

The Fair is a great school; a series of lectures. Here every man, woman and child must learn something of interest and profit. The management does not intend this as a street show or hippodrome or a circus, but a State Fair of the people for the people and by the people. Somebody must interest themselves in such a movement far enough to organize it and carry it forward to the end; but the people of our State must make the success, from them only can come the support that will show to themselves and the world how great a State is their patrimony. Each and every one must bring the signs and handwork of their calling and occupation. Nothing is too great or too small to be shown. Nothing too insignificant. We must live nearer home. We must improve ourselves and our conditions along every line. We must learn to utilize what we produce.

An earnest lesson taught our children that the farm, garden and grove will afford opportunities and independence of life known in no other walk.

The management of the Fair and the public-spirited people who co-operate with them will be more than repaid for all their time and money given to the interest of our rural people.

We occupy a unique position in the agricultural conditions of our country. Our people produce from the ground resources that no other people have. But as we are to-day we have not learned how to utilize what we have. In the coming together of the farmer, the fruit-grower and the stockman at our State Fair we each of us will learn what our neighbor may be doing and how successfully.

Every producer, farmer or grower of whatever kind should see and know every labor-saving tool of every description, and see it in operation as far as possible. The dairy, the apiary, and poultry, the horses, cattle, sheep and hogs should come together on the farm and at annual State Fairs and at Farmers' Institutes. We must study the economy of transmuting unavailable productions into marketable resources. We must learn success from ourselves, and we must bring ourselves together, shoulder to shoulder, that we may help each other.

Does any citizen doubt that we have now an opportunity in our State Fair? Let every citizen give the management their hearty co-operation and the success will be assured.

"PISTOL TOTTING LAWS."

Following are the laws passed by the last Legislature relative to carrying concealed weapons. They should be posted in every reader's hat for reference, and strictly enforced by the officers:

Chapter 4926—No. 42.

AN ACT to Provide for the Effectual and Vigorous Prosecution of the Offense of Carrying Arms Secretly. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. That from and after the passage of this act, the several grand juries in their respective counties may return indictments and the several State attorneys in their respective circuits may file informations against parties for carrying any pistol, razor, dirk or other deadly weapon, except a common pocket knife, secretly on or about their person.

Sec. 2. That all such indictments or informations shall be by the Clerk of the Circuit Court transmitted and certified to the County Judge for trial, except in counties where Criminal Courts or Record and County Courts have been established. In such counties all such indictments and informations shall be transmitted and certified to the Criminal Courts of Record or to the County Court for trial.

Sec. 3. Every person convicted in any court in this State, said court having a regular or special prosecuting officer, shall pay a conviction fee of ten dollars, which shall be taxed as costs in addition to the other costs and fines imposed; Provided, however, Where the party convicted is insolvent and unable to pay the costs and conviction fee, that no liability shall attach to or

be incurred by the respective counties for such conviction fee herein provided for.

Approved May 31, 1901.

Chapter 4927—No. 43.

AN ACT Allowing All Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Constables and Police Officers to Have and Carry Weapons upon Their Persons, Concealed or Otherwise, Without Giving Bond.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. That from and after the passage of this act, all Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Constables and Police Officers are allowed to have and carry upon their persons, concealed or otherwise, without giving bond, any deadly weapon.

Sec. 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor.

Approved May 30, 1901.

Chapter 4928—No. 44.

AN ACT to Amend Section 1 of Chapter 4147 of the Laws of the State of Florida, Entitled an Act to Regulate the Carrying of Fire-Arms, Approved June 2, 1893.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. That Section 1 of Chapter 4147, of the Laws of the State of Florida, being an act entitled an act to regulate the carrying of fire-arms, be amended so as to read as follows: That in each and every county in this State it shall be unlawful to carry a pistol, Winchester or other repeating rifle without first taking out a license from the County Commissioners of the respective counties before such person shall be at liberty to carry around with him on his person, a repeating rifle or other repeating rifle; Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to alter, affect or amend any laws now in force in this State or which may be hereafter enacted relative to carrying concealed weapons on or about one's person.

Approved May 9, 1901.

Chapter 4929—No. 45.

AN ACT to Prohibit the Carrying of Concealed Weapons in This State, and to Provide a Penalty Therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. That whoever shall secretly carry arms of any kind on or about his person, or about his person, any dirk, pistol, metallic knuckles, slung shot, billie or other weapon, except a common pocket knife, shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than three months nor exceeding six months or by fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment; Provided, That nothing in this act shall be considered as applying to Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, City or Town Marshals, Policemen, Constables or United States Marshals or their deputies.

The carrying of concealed weapons is hereby declared a breach of the peace, and any officer authorized to make arrests under the laws of this State is hereby authorized to make arrests, without warrant, of persons violating the provisions of this act.

Sec. 2. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved May 21, 1901.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC.

A jolly crowd of youngsters met at the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad depot last Thursday morning intent on having a day of enjoyment at Lanark, the occasion being the Sunday school picnic given by the Presbyterian Sunday school authorities to their members.

About one hundred old and young participated and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The day was very pleasant, and at Lanark particularly cool. The plunge in the Gulf was worth the whole trip, and a delightful picnic dinner, served by the matrons of the occasion, was much enjoyed by all.

In the afternoon a ride in the river steamer to the bay and about the bay was the source of amusement of the majority of the crowd, while a few had a delightful sail in "John the Greek's" sloop, a spanking breeze making it a success in every way.

Late in the day a heavy rain and wind squall cooled the atmosphere most pleasantly.

The return home was begun promptly at 6 p. m. and 8 o'clock found all back to town.

The picnic last Thursday was a great success, and made a lot of youngsters thoroughly happy, and prepared them for a good night's rest. The thanks of all participants are due to the ladies of the Sunday school, whose energy and perseverance enabled them to spend so delightful a day so cheaply, and also to Mr. F. W. Armstrong, the General Passenger Agent of the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad, who had immediate charge of the transportation, for his untiring efforts to please all and every one who went.

On to-morrow (Friday) afternoon, arguments will be heard by Judge Malone in the case brought by Messrs. Camp & West to compel Mr. McLin, Commissioner of Agriculture, to carry out the contract of lease of 300 convicts, which contract, they claim, Mr. McLin, with the approval of the Board of State Institutions, entered into last February. This is the "tentative" contract that has caused so much talk throughout the State and during the last session of the Legislature. Mr. McLin, together with the Board, denies having made such a contract.

Mrs. Charles G. Myers, with her little son, went down to Lanark Monday for a visit of two weeks.

AN OIL EXCITEMENT

Stories of Its Discovery in South Florida

MANY SURFACE INDICATIONS

Company Being Organized to Bore Wells in Marion County.

The reported discovery of oil in the Withlacoochee valley by Mr. Albertus Vogt is supposed to be in township 16, range 18, and is not more than a mile distant from the identical spot where hard rock phosphate was discovered by the same gentleman in the year 1889.

Different stories are told as to what led to the discovery. The following is believed to be the most authentic:

It seems that near the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Vogt is a pond. Mrs. Vogt noticed for a long time that neither horses, dogs nor cows would drink the water. She called Mr. Vogt's attention to the fact, so one day when they were passing by the pond he got down and put his arm up to the elbow into the water, and when he withdrew it discovered an oily substance clinging to it, which had the smell of kerosene.

When the excitement of the oil gushers at Beaumont were filling the newspapers, Mr. and Mrs. Vogt instantly thought of the pond near them, and an analysis of the water followed, which showed the prevalence of oil, and the matter some how and in some way became a matter of public notoriety.

Albertus Vogt, of Dunellon, Samuel R. Pyles, of Ocala, Gaston Drake, of St. Louis, and other parties interested in the supposed discovery of oil in the Withlacoochee valley are in this city, and have been for several days past. It is surmised that they are perfecting the organization of a company for the purpose of boring for a "gusher."

They are closely closeted, examining maps, recording options and consulting with their attorneys, but are not giving anything out for publication. George Ware, a gentleman from Texas, passed through here Tuesday and submitted to an interview which precipitated the excitement from the standpoint in which it has since been discussed.

Mr. Ware is fresh from the oil fields of Beaumont. He was there during all the stages of the oil discovery, from the time the surface indications were first made known until the gusher ceased all doubt as to the existence of oil in Texas.

For ten days or more Mr. Ware has been in Dunellon, and gives, or attempts to give, the alleged oil discovery in that region "a black eye." He says there is not a particle of doubt about the surface indications of oil being visible in the region named. He says it can be seen oozing out in the ruts of the roadway, in ponds and running streams, and can be smelled for a distance of many yards, but he says it is refined oil, the oil of commerce, old fashioned kerosene oil, pure and simple, the same as you purchase from the stores.

The plain inference, of course, is that the oil find in that region is a "put up job," that someone, has "salted" these supposed "finds," or, more properly speaking, has "kerosened the earth," and is playing the world for suckers.

A story has also gained publicity that a barrel of oil mysteriously disappeared from the railroad station at Dunellon about six weeks ago, which heightens the color of the story of the gentleman from Beaumont.

Let's seriously see if this story will bear analyzing.

The reported finds of oil in the Withlacoochee valley are widely separated from each other. It is therefore seen that it would require large quantities of kerosene to saturate the earth. It is known that kerosene oil evaporates very rapidly, hence the places where these finds are reported would have to be constantly supplied with fresh oil if the supposed discovery is a fake and a fraud.

Then, too, for the past six weeks we have had unusual and unparalleled rains. In some places as much as fourteen inches of rainfall is reported in a single day. It is not too much to say that in the six weeks past we have had enough rainfall to wash to "smithereens" all the loose kerosene that could have been "sneaked" into the bowels of the earth. We have taken pains to investigate the alleged missing barrel of oil from the railroad station at Dunellon, and find it to be entirely mythical. The agent reports that no barrel of oil has been missing at that station and that every barrel shipped there has been properly accounted for.

So, instead of being a fake, the interview of the gentleman from Texas strengthens rather than weakens the faith of the people here as to the genuineness of the oil discovery in the Withlacoochee valley. If the oil is there in quantities and in remote places, it is clearly evident that it could not have been placed there by individuals.

Capt. John L. Inglis was in Ocala Wednesday from Port Inglis, near the mouth of the Withlacoochee river. From the very start of the supposed oil discovery, the captain has been a "doubting Thomas" and has "taken no stock" in the genuineness of the discovery. He believed implicitly in the